

Testimony in Opposition of House Bills 4862/4863

Presented By: Commissioner Shelley Goodman Taub

Oakland County District 16

February 2, 2012

Oakland County Substance Abuse Advisory Council Member

- Local units of government are empowered through MCL 333.6226 which authorizes the approval of the County Board of Commissioners in designating which entity will be the county CA. Proposed legislation in HB 4862/4863 would transfer CA's under the auspices of PIHP's/CMHSP's and eliminate the language that allows for local control that the statute seeks to protect.
- The Oakland County Board of Commissioners ability to designate the Coordinating Agency has allowed Commissioners to assess local substance use disorder treatment and prevention needs and determine where these needs can best be met. For almost 40 years the Oakland County Board of Commissioners has determined that the Oakland County Health Division is the entity that best serves as the CA.
- The Oakland County Board of Commissioners reaffirmed this decision through resolution adopted February 1, 2012.
- HB 482/4863 eliminates Coordinating Agencies and dictates that funding and service requirements must transfer to the Pre-Paid Inpatient Health Plans/Community Mental Health Service Providers by October 1, 2013.

One cannot ignore the expertise, capacity and infrastructure Oakland County Health Division has developed these past nearly 40 years. There is no organization in Oakland County, currently, that could surpass their abilities or track record. This includes, but is not limited to providing services for individuals with a co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders.

Simply put, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners made the decision to designate Oakland County Health Division the Coordinating Agency in Oakland County nearly 40 years ago. I urge you to maintain the designation of the Coordinating Agency to remain with the local Board of Commissioners.